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Smoke Volunteers Magazine

NEWS FROM THE TENNESSEE VOLUNTEERS

Looking Back on the 97-98 Year!

Last Year's Happenings in Big Orange Country.

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BRAD LAUX

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Vols Hire New Golf Coach

Jim Kelson, who guided Augusta (Ga.) State University to national prominence with NCAA appearances and top level poll rankings, is taking over the University of Tennessee golf program.

Athletics Director Doug Dickey announced on June 3 that the 34-year old Kelson would succeed Mike Malarkey, who resigned in April.

"I am comfortable in the belief that Jim Kelson's enthusiasm and coaching expertise will have a positive effect on recruiting and other aspects of our golf program," Dickey said. "He has done a truly outstanding job of putting Augusta State in a strong competitive position on the national scene."

Since 1992, Kelson has been assistant athletic director at Augusta State as combination golf coach-compliance coordinator. Before that, he was assistant golf coach at Florida for four years.

A native of Dallas, Texas, Kelson graduated from Alabama in 1987. He went to Tuscaloosa as a transfer student from Oklahoma and played on the golf team at both Oklahoma and Alabama.

Under Kelson's direction, Augusta State finished eleventh in 1997 and this past season was ranked at one point in the Top 10. Four of Kelson's teams made it to the NCAA national tournament, and five reached the NCAA East Regional. He was named NCAA Division I Coach of the Year in 1983. Augusta State won eight tournaments during his seven years as coach.

As a player he won the Oklahoma Amateur championship in 1983 and finished third in the 1987 Bermuda Amateur. He spent a year on the Mini Tour in the Orlando area before taking his first coaching job at Florida.

Kelson received his degree in Sports Psychology from Alabama and earned his masters degree from Florida in Exercise and Sports Science.

Basketball Hires New Administrative Assistant

Vol basketball head coach Jerry Green announced June 8 that Ray Grant was hired to replace Tad Boyle as administrative assistant. Boyle resigned in April to accept an assistant coaching position at Jacksonville State University.

Grant, who coached Cleveland High School to its only boys' Tennessee Class AAA state title in 1997, has been one of the most successful high school basketball coaches in the state, amassing a record of 78-14 in the past three seasons.

Most recently, he was selected to coach the West squad in the Magic Johnson All-Star Game in Detroit, Mich., made up of the nation's top high school seniors.

"Ray Grant will be a real asset to our program," said Green. "I am impressed by the organizational skills he displayed during our recruitment of Vincent Yarbrough last year and he has a unique familiarity with our current players from his high school coaching background. I believe we have developed an excellent professional relationship and I look forward to having him on my staff."

In his new role with the Vols, Grant will oversee the players' academic progress, coordinate team travel, as well as assist in managing UT's summer basketball camps and coaching clinics.

Grant came to Cleveland High School in 1995 after spending two years in the Maury County School System as an assistant coach at Columbia High School and head coach at Columbia Middle School. From 1985-92, Grant served as an assistant varsity coach in the Cleveland City Schools System. He was physical director for the Athens-McMinn Family YMCA from 1980-85.

Grant, 42, is a native of Ripley, Ohio. He earned an Associate of Arts Degree from Hiwassee College in 1976 and a B.S. in Health and Physical Education from Tennessee Wesleyan College in 1979. He was listed in the Who's Who Among America's Teachers in 1996.

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ATTENTION LETTERMEN

Dear Lettermen:

The time has come to ask our members for nominations for the Board of Directors for the Lettermen's "T" Club. The qualification for nomination is that a member must be in good standing with the club at the time of his nomination. Good standing is defined as being current with their respective dues for the upcoming year.

If you know of a member who would be a worthy addition to our Board by virtue of outstanding community and university related service as well as their commitment to become an active participant in our organization, please submit a short (one page) statement outlining your reasons for nominating this individual. All nominees should be aware that the"T-Club" By-Laws require removal of any Board Member for missing three (3) consecutive monthly meetings.

Voting for the new members to the Board will occur during the annual retreat this fall. There are several vacancies on the Board, and a list of those nominated and those selected will be published in one of the fall editions of Volunteers Magazine. Your support is encouraged and needed, so we look forward to your nominations.

Please submit your nominations by July 31 to:

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From the Editor

(EDITOR'S NOTE: ***In this issue we are featuring an article in a series of articles focusing on the athletic strength and conditioning department of the University of Tennessee.)***

STRENGTH & CONDITIONING KEYS TO SUCCESS.

Many sports fans believe once the last touchdown is scored, the last ball is hit, or the last shot is made, the athlete will go back to their everyday life of being a student. The reality of a student-athletes life is that when the last game is played, the long hard work to prepare for the next season begins. Each athlete will recover from the accumulated injuries that go along with an athletic season in the SEC, and will endeavor to make themselves bigger, faster and stronger. The athlete's off-season is actually the in-season for the strength and conditioning specialists of the athletic department.

Being a strength coach has changed dramatically in the past 10 years. Since the mid-1980s, having a professionally trained strength staff, at a collegiate level, is becoming the norm rather than the exception. Here at UT, we are very proud of our two head strength and conditioning coordinators. The Men's program is under the direction of John Stucky, who is also the Assistant Athletic Director for Physical Development, while the Women's program is directed by Jeff Dahoda. Both of these coaches are viewed as among the very best in their field.

Today the strength coach cannot just be an old "iron head," content with just lifting heavy weights and making athletes stronger. The new age strength coach must be equally versed not only in strength training ideas but also in the areas of Olympic lifts, plyometrics, speed development, sport specific conditioning, rehabilitation of injured athletes as well as understanding nutrition and supplementation. At the University of Tennessee we are in the process of building one of the most complete staffs in America.

The Vols and Lady Vols have the opportunity to utilize the most up to date and efficient training centers. The Percy Strength Facility is one of the finest weight rooms in the nation spanning over 12,000 square feet, with over 48,000 pounds of free weights and 140 training stations. This, combined with a 5200 square foot training facility located in Stokely Athletic Center, gives the University of Tennessee a firm foundation in which the top athletes in the country are trained.

This month's high light athletes are baseball player Jeff Pickler and football/track athlete Darwin Walker.

Both Pickler and Walker give credit for their success to their coaches but also to the work that they did in the weight room. Pickler is convinced that the work he did during the fall in the weight room led directly to the success he had on the diamond.

At the end of the winter training, Walker bench-pressed 520 pounds, while squatting 605 pounds and power cleaning 360 pounds. When this is combined with his 6-3, 285-pound frame, which travels over 40 yards in less than five seconds, you have potentially one of the most explosive and powerful two sport athletes in the country. (Walker is also a member of the Vol track team.)

If you have any questions about the strength, conditioning, speed development or nutrition and supplementation please feel free to contact John Stucky or Chris Carlisle at 101 Neyland-Thompson Sports Center, Knoxville, TN 37996.

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1997-98 Proves to be fruitful...

TENNESSEE ATHLETICS HAS ANOTHER OUTSTANDING YEAR!

Champions! Of the many words to describe the 1997-98 year for the University of Tennessee on the fields of battle and in the classroom, *CHAMPIONS* would fit the description quite nicely.

After all, Tennessee racked up national championships in men's swimming (Jeremy Linn) and women's basketball, while claiming SEC Championships in football, track, swimming & diving, and women's basketball. The Men's and Women's Athletic Departments also saw a great number of their athletes honored with individual academic and athletic awards over the past year.

SEC CHAMPS ON GRIDIRON

Led by everybody's All-America Peyton Manning, Tennessee claimed its first SEC Championship since 1990.

Tennessee defeated Auburn 30-29 in the SEC Championship game in Atlanta to clinch the title. Tennessee rolled up a 11-2 record and finished ranked No. 7 by the Associated Press. It was the Vols third straight year finishing ranked in the Top 10.

The Vols defense was the key in the SEC Championship game as the Vol defensive held Auburn to minus 15 yards rushing for the game.

Manning finished his career as the SEC's all-time leading passer with 11,201 yards and received numerous national awards.

His talents were on display in the Vols 59-31 win over Kentucky in which he passed for 523 yards and completed 12 straight passes.

The 1997 year also saw the emergence of freshman tailback Jamal Lewis who rushed for 1364 yards (a school record for a true freshman), the second highest season total in Vol history. Jonathan Brown recorded 13.5 sacks to lead the conference, while combining with Leonard Little (also named as a first Team All-America) to become the most prolific sack tandem in the school's history.

Teddy Greene - Smoky Mountain Times

After capturing the SEC Championship, UT earned the right to play for the national championship in the Orange Bowl against Nebraska.

Coach Phillip Fulmer finished the season with the highest winning percentage among active coaches with a 54-11 record for a percentage of .831, while leading the Vols to the National Championship game versus Nebraska.

The Vols had three players drafted in the first round (Manning No. 1), Terry Fair (No. 14) and Marcus Nash (No. 30).

The Vols placed 18 members of the squad on the SEC Academic Honor Roll, a school and SEC record.

Manning claimed academic honors as the top collegiate football player in the country garnering the Vincent dePaul Draddy Award.

VOLS SOAR BEHIND GREEN

The first year of the Jerry Green era proved to be a successful one in Knoxville.

Under the guidance of the first-year coach, the Vols posted a 20-9 record and made their first trip to the NCAA tournament since 1989.

Junior Brandon Wharton proved to be the stabilizing force for the Vols as he averaged 15.2 points a game. He also became the 31st Vol to enter the 1000-point club.

Freshman point guard Tony Harris was the spark plug that made the Vols go this season. The Memphis native's arrival on campus was well anticipated and the results showed it was worth the wait. He averaged 14.2 points a game and was named SEC Co-Newcomer of the Year. Along with Isiah Victor, he earned a place on the SEC All-Freshmen team.

The sophomore jinx was not a concern to C.J. Black as the Chattanooga native averaged over 12 points a game and set a school single-season record with 73 block shots.

The Vols started the season with 10 consecutive wins including road victories at Memphis and Southern California. A rough start in SEC play followed, but the Vols recovered to win eight of their last 10 games. Along the way, the men in Orange picked up wins against nationally ranked Arkansas, South Carolina and Mississippi.

Aaron Green earned SEC Academic Honors for the second consecutive season.

Green earned SEC Co-Coach of the Year honors and left folks in Big Orange Country counting down the days until the opening tip of the 1998-99 season.

39-0 AND 3 STRAIGHT TITLES

One year after becoming the first team in NCAA basketball history to win a title with 10 losses, the Lady Vols once again became trendsetters during the 1997-98 season, with their third national championship in as many years.

Led by everyone's college player of the year, junior Chamique Hold-

Coach Jerry Green led the Vols to their first NCAA appearance since 1989, and finished the season with 20 wins, most since 1985.

sclaw, and the best recruiting class in Lady Vol history, and any question about this year's team having the talent and chemistry were put to rest after a convincing 75-61 win over second-ranked Louisiana Tech, on a night which Tennessee's fifth national championship banner rose to the ceiling.

The Lady Vols were tested rarely during the season, with close games against Illinois and Alabama during the regular season and North Carolina in the NCAA Tournament.

Tennessee ran through Arkansas, in the Semi-Finals of the NCAA Tournament, in a 86-58 route to advance to the title game.

With the moniker of 'Best Ever' on the line, the Lady Vols came out smoking in the championship game, running out to a 23-8 lead after Louisiana Tech scored the first basket of the game. The Lady Vols went on to an impressive victory in the 93-75 championship game.

The Lady Vols on the All-SEC Academic Honor Roll included senior Laurie Milligan, juniors Brynae Laxton (also an Academic All-District choice) and Kellie Jolly, and sophomore Niya Butts.

VOLLEYBALL'S NEW BEGINNING ENDS WITH POSITIVE RESULTS

They struggled throughout the season and battled injury and adversity, but in the end, the Lady Vol volleyball team persevered. It was a team whose athletes missed 68 matches to injury, including losing three for either the season or their careers, and had three members play the year with nagging season-long injuries.

But, UT had more than injuries to contend with. The campaign included only nine home matches and included six contests against ranked foes. Yet, guided by first-year head coach Rob Patrick, Tennessee still managed to post a 15-19 overall record and a 5-9 conference mark.

The season began with UT earning its best start since 1991 and included its top single-match hitting percentage since 1988.

By the time the Lady Vols had traveled to UNC Asheville, they had an 11-15 record. However, they would ring in November with a different kind of record. On the road against the Bulldogs, UT shattered dozens of individual, team and school marks in a 3-1 victory.

The regular-season wound to a close with a grand conclusion. The volleyball squad captured an exciting four-game victory over Kentucky in the final match ever played in Alumni Gym before a Fox Sports South regionally televised audience.

UT won its first SEC Tournament contest since 1988 with a first-round, three-game victory over Alabama. However, UT's run came to a close when eventual tournament champion, Arkansas, stopped the Lady Vols, 3-0.

Those recognized on the SEC Honor Roll included Jenny Meeks, Kerry Ginter, Mary Heinecke, Lynn Lovingier, Kim Obiala, Christy Warren, and Lauren Clayton.

SECOND-YEAR SOCCER TEAM POSTS WINNING RECORD

Under the guidance of head coach Charlie MacCabe, the Lady Volunteer soccer team entered its second campaign with a clear cut mission: to continue its development and ascent within the regional and national scene.

In the season-opener against Memphis, a 3-0 triumph, the Lady Vols served notice that they would not be easy to score on this season. It would be the defense that would determine the Lady Vols' fortune as they allowed only 33 goals all year, 19 less than their inaugural campaign.

Tennessee faced the usual SEC foes but also faced some stiff non conference competition like North Carolina, Xavier, Texas, Arizona, Arizona State, and Florida State.

A loss to Georgia saw Tennessee's hopes for an SEC Tournament spot come to a close.

The Lady Vols finished the season with victories over Texas and Florida State to close out the season with an 11-8 overall record.

Firsts for the program this year included: junior defender Kassie Kees named as SEC Player of the Week and to Soccer America's Women Collegiate Team of the Week, and Kees and Kendyl Michner selected as second-team All-SEC.

Named to the SEC Academic Honor Roll were: Jodi Hanlon, Holly

The Lady Vols claimed their third consecutive NCAA Championship and their sixth in the last 10 years, going an unprecedented 39-0, and having two players, Chamique Holdsclaw and Tamika Catchings, being named to the First Team All-America squad.

Kimble, Natalie Balash, Kees, Sharon Kelly, Melissa Majcher, Heather Handel, Whitney Rayburn, Heather Redecker and Sarah Shivley.

FANCUTT LEADS CHARGES

Folks in Big Orange Country also welcomed a new tennis coach to Knoxville this past year. Former Vol Michael Fancutt took over the Vol netmen and led them to a 14-7 record and a No. 19 ranking at season's end.

It was quite a turn around from the previous season when the Vols failed to win a SEC match and then started the season not ranked in the top 60.

Leading the way for the Vols were Mark Way and Chad Copenhaver. The duo teamed to qualify for the NCAA Championships in doubles competition, and Way earned a trip to the championships in singles competition.

The duo advanced to the second round of the NCAA Championships and finished the season with a 24-11 record. They held a No. 15 ranking at the end of the season.

Mark Parsons also made a solid contribution to the Vol attack. Parson finished the season with a 37-12 record, which tied him for eighth in most singles wins in a season. Juan Gamboa recorded a mark of 23-10 including wins in 15 of his last 17 matches.

The Vol tennis team under the direction of Michael Fancutt returned to prominence in the SEC, finishing the season with a No. 19 ranking after not being ranked in the preseason

The season was capped off when Fancutt earned SEC Co-Coach of the Year honors as well as being named the Region III Wilson/ITA Coach of the Year.

TENNIS ADVANCES TO NCAAs FOR THIRD TIME IN FOUR YEARS

With three rookies and a new co-head coach joining two returning All-Americas and five other veterans, the 1997-98 Lady Volunteer tennis team figured to be positioning itself for its greatest season yet. In his 11th season as head coach at Tennessee, Mike Patrick was joined this year by his wife, Sonia Hahn-Patrick, to become the first co-head coaches in UT tennis history.

Tennessee tested its mettle against some stiff competition with the likes of No. 14 Brigham Young, No. 11 William & Mary, and Wake Forest.

After losing five of their last six matches, the Lady Vols rebounded at the SEC Championships, held in Lexington, Ky. The Lady Vols climbed into the semi-final round where they lost to Georgia.

But their impressive play helped them to garner a host position in the NCAA regionals.The Big Orange won their second consecutive regional championship and advanced to the NCAAs for the third time in the last four seasons.

Hoping to draw a favorable first-round matchup, the Lady Vols had to settle for a 15th seed, with No. 2 seed and defending champion Stanford providing the opposition. Unfortunately, Tennessee was left still looking for its first-ever tournament win, as the Cardinal posted a 6-0 victory. As a team, the Orange and White finished with a No. 15 ranking, plus a 20-11 overall record and an 8-5 SEC mark.

While the dual match season was over, Margie Lepsi and Manisha Malhotra stayed for the individual singles and doubles championships. Looking to advance past the first round for the first time, Malhotra lost a hard fought three-set match. There was one bright spot for the Lady Vols, as the Lepsi/Malhotra tandem won their first match to advance to the second round. That was as far as they would get, as for the second straight year, a Florida team would send the UT duo home.

Lepsi and Malhotra's win marked the first NCAA doubles victory since 1992. Both earned All-America honors, finishing as the nation's seventh-ranked tandem, as the two became the first Lady Vols to earn four All-America honors.

Academically, Whitney Dill, Candy Reid and Emily Woodside were also recognized by the SEC and earned spots on the SEC Academic Honor Roll.

LINN CLAIMS SEC AND NCAA TITLES

John Trembley had his swimmers up to their old tricks this season, and the Vol tankmen turned in another stellar season.

Led by SEC Swimmer of the Year Jeremy Linn, the Vols posted a fourth place showing at the NCAA Championships. It was the highest finish for the Vols since 1979. Linn claimed his third straight NCAA Championship in the 100 meter breaststroke and was part of three relay teams that finished in the top eight.

Freshmen Gabi Chereches placed fourth in platform diving and fifth in the 3-meter diving competition. In all, Tennessee picked up 23 All-America honors and 16 honorable mention All-America honors.

Linn also led the Vols to a third place finish at the SEC Championships by claiming his fourth 100 meter breaststroke title. Dave Parrington was named SEC Diving Coach of the Year.

The Vols home winning streak came to an end this year as well. The Vols had rolled up 41 consecutive wins dating back to January 1988 before losing to Florida.

Adam Engle earned GTE Academic Honors, while five swimmers (Casey Quilter, Rob Strauber, Chip Chiappetta, Brendan Crowley, and Engle) were named to the SEC Academic Honor Roll.

SWIMMING & DIVING TAKES 19th AT NCAAs

The 1997-98 Tennessee Lady Volunteer swimming and diving team opened the season with its goals set on a top-10 finish at NCAAs and top two in the conference.

With early matchups against Kentucky, Arkansas, Miami (Fla.), and Clemson the Lady Vols were tested early and often.

The swimmers and divers separated in December, with the swimmers finishing second at the Georgia Invitational and junior diver Kathy Pesek taking a third and a sixth at the Texas Invitational.

Jane Woodard took part in the

Jeremy Linn finished his UT swimming career garnering an SEC and an NCAA championship, propelling the Vols to a fourth place finish at the NCAAs.

8th FINA World Championships, held in Perth, Australia. Kathy Pesek and former Lady Vol Tracy Bonner returned with bronze medals in the three-meter synchronized diving competition. Fabiola Molina, who represented her native country of Brazil, was 11th in the 100m and 16th in the 200m backstroke, while Woodard, representing South Africa, finished 19th on the three-meter board and 25th on the one-meter.

The SEC Championships provided Tennessee with a fifth-place finish, with Georgia taking the team title. The Lady Vols lone individual champion was Pesek, who captured the 10-meter platform title with a SEC meet and school-record score. In response, Pesek and Molina were named to the All-SEC team.

At the NCAA meet, despite the second diving championship in Lady Vol history, Tennessee could manage only a 19th-place finish, their lowest since 1992-93. Pesek took the title on the 10-meter platform for her first-ever national championship, and along with her eighth-place finish on the three-meter board, was responsible for 31 of UT's 49 points.

All-America finishes for the Lady Vols included: Sarah Nichols, eighth in the 1650y freestyle; Tori DeSilvia, 14th in the 100y breaststroke; Molina, junior Jill Sprecher, DeSilvia and Plummer, 16th in the 200y and 400y medley relays.

Named to the SEC Academic Honor Roll were: Luciana Abe, Tori DeSilvia, Jennifer Mancini, Paula Marsiglia, Leslie Mix, Molina, Cheri Sears, Jill Sprecher and Pesek. Pesek and Molina were each chosen Academic All-Americas, while Pesek was also named as the Academic All-America of the Year.

MALARKEY ENDS 22-YEAR CAREER AS HEAD COACH

Youth and inexperience usually do not equal success and that proved to be the case for this years men's golf team.

With only two returning letterman from last year's squad, it proved to be a bumpy road for the Vol linksters. Eight freshmen entered the fold for Mike Malarkey but were unable to earn the Vols fourth consecutive trip to the NCAA Championships. Freshmen accounted for 99 of the 154 rounds played by the Vols during the 97-98 campaign.

The young Vols failed to garner a top 10 tournament finish heading into the SEC Championships. But in Athens, the Vols surprised everyone and finished fourth. Derrick Centers and Kevin Law finished in a tie for 11th at the SEC Championships.

German native Kariem Baraka led the Vols in stroke average at 75.18. Kevin Law earned a spot on the SEC Academic Honor Roll.

The big surprise of the season was the departure of Malarkey at season's end. The veteran of 22 years resigned following the season and was replaced by Jim Kelson, who left the head coaching position at Augusta State University to take over the Vol program.

GOLF FINISHES 13th AT NCAA EAST REGIONALS

Coming into the 1997-98 golf season, the Lady Volunteer team had already accomplished many of the goals set by coach Lori Brock in the first five years of the program. Tennessee would accomplish another goal this season, as they hosted one of the nation's premier tournaments, the inaugural Mercedes-Benz Women's Collegiate Championships (MBWCC).

The MBWCC which was held at the Gettysvue Polo, Golf and Country Club on September 26-28. Of the 18 teams competing, 15 were ranked in the top 25. The Orange and White, led by senior Erin Kurczewski's 22nd-place showing, took ninth in the tournament, while seventh-ranked Duke became the first champion in tournament history.

In the last tournament of the fall season, UT went down to Hilton Head, S.C., for the Golf World - Palmetto Dunes Collegiate Invitational. The Lady Vols took fifth, behind four top-eight ranked teams. Erin Kurczewski had her first top-10 finish of the year, as she took ninth.

In the last tournament of the regular season, Kurczewski turned in a second-place performance to help the Orange and White into third at the Bryan National Collegiate Cup. Kurczewski finished just one stroke behind the individual medalist with a 218.

Competing at the SEC championships, the Lady Vols captured their best finish since 1993 placing fourth, led by the performance of Kurczewski and Jessica Lindbergh. Kurczewski shot a 224 to finish in sixth, while Lindbergh was tied at 13th with a 229.

Trying to qualify for the NCAA Tournament spots, Tennessee finished 12th at the NCAA East Regional. The Lady Vols concluded the season ranked 14th.

Four of the five Lady Vol golfers earned conference honors. Kurczewski was named to the All-SEC first team, while Lindbergh garnered second-team honors, and Skyli Yamada and freshman Anna Umemura were selected honorable mention.

Awarded All-SEC Honor Roll accolades were Rachel Thompson and Lindbergh.

DIAMOND VOLS SET SCHOOL RECORDS

The Diamond Vols finished the 1998 season with a 36-20 overall

Kathy Pesek claimed All-America honors both in the diving platform and in the classroom as she was also named to the GTE Academic-All-America Team.

record while finishing fourth in the Southeastern Conference Eastern Division with an 11-17 slate.

The Vols were led by consensus All-America and Southeastern Conference Player of the Year second baseman Jeff Pickler. Also earning All-America honors was right fielder Sonny Cortez. Pickler went on to earn GTE Academic All-America honors as well.

Pickler and Cortez were each named First Team All-SEC, while designated hitter Travis Copley earned second team honors for the second time in his career.

The Vols posted an impressive non-conference mark of 25-3 (.893), while continuing their streak of games not being shutout to 160.

After beginning the season with a strong 16-5 start and posting wins over North Carolina State, Florida State and an SEC series win at Mississippi State, the Vols won only 20 of their last 35 games, including an upset loss to UNC Asheville at home.

Along the way though, the UT offense shattered 12 offensive records including home runs (107), RBIs (510), doubles (152), runs (566), extra base hits (271), sac flies (33) and batting average (.340). The Vols ranked seventh in nation averaging 10.1 runs a game.

Sonny Cortez established a school record for home runs with 24. Pickler set records for hits in a season (109) and doubles (30) while leading the SEC in hitting with a .455 average.

Pickler, Copley, Eduardo Figueroa and Jason Evans were all named to the SEC Academic Honor Roll. Copley became only the fifth Vol to be given the award for a third time in his career.

SOFTBALL FIGHTS TOUGH SCHEDULE, INJURIES

With an impressive 99 victories in its first two years and a preseason ranking of 25th, the Lady Vol softball team looked to contend for both the Southeastern Conference title and its first-ever NCAA Regional bid.

Yet luck was not on their side when junior and 1997 All-SEC pitcher Buffy Walker suffered an injury before the season, and was forced to miss the first several weeks of the campaign. Walker's injury left Tennessee with only two healthy pitchers for the first tournament of the year, the Coca-Cola Classic in Tempe, Ariz. UT dropped its first three games to ranked teams, but defeated No. 3 Washington on the third day of play, giving the Lady Vols both a victory over their highest-ranked opponent ever and the team's 100th win in the program's history.

The injury bug struck the Lady Vols again in their second tournament, as junior pitcher Jackie Beavers suffered a knee injury in the first game of the Mardi Gras Classic, which would require season-ending surgery. Thus, Tennessee's third junior pitcher, Sarah Ayres, was forced to pitch the last five games of the Classic, including throwing a two-hit shutout of Ole Miss in an 8-0 victory.

Tennessee got key victories in the early part of the season with wins over No. 22 Kansas and 1997 Women's College World Series runner-up UCLA to even out their record at 10-10.

Junior Jessica Lindbergh finished well on the course but did equally as well in the classroom, being named to the All-SEC Honor Roll along with Rachel Thompson.

A 28-game conference portion of their schedule saw Tennessee trying to stay in the running for an SEC Tournament berth, in which only eight of 11 teams earn bids.

The Lady Vol team traveled to Kentucky and swept the Wildcats to qualify for the SEC tournament for the second straight year.

Tennessee won one of three games in the SEC Tournament in which LSU ousted the Lady Vols and ended their season with a 37-31 overall record and a 13-15 mark in the SEC.

Senior Jodi Ramirez was named an Academic All-America. Earning spots on the SEC Academic Honor Roll were Sarah Ayers, Jackie Beavers, Kenyail Norris, Ramirez, and Jenny Steele.

SOUTHERN CHAMPIONSHIP CROWN HIGHLIGHTS ROWERS' SEASON

The 1997-98 season was possibly the most successful all-around performance for the Lady Vol rowing team, which included finishing in the top three in seven regattas and capturing its first-ever title at the Southern Intercollegiate Rowing Association Championships (SIRA).

The fall began with the Chattanooga Head Race and a second-place team finish. As the fall progressed, UT collected two more runner-up finishes in its final two regattas, the Head of the Tennessee and the Head of the Chattahoochee.

As the spring season began, the Lady Vols made their mark early by winning each of the scored races they entered at the Tennessee Cup, but finished second overall.

The team returned to Knoxville for the Lexus Invitational, where the Novice 4+ boat captured the title and three others collected silver medals. In a dual with Ohio State, Tennessee's Novice 4+ emerged victorious in the Varsity race, upending the Buckeye's powerful top Four.

At the George Washington Invitational Crew Classic, the Lightweight 8+ finished in third only 1.2 seconds behind two crews ranked among the best in the nation, while the Novice 8+ won the Petite Final against a very competitive field.

UT returned home the next week to notch its biggest team achievement in the program's three-year history as it took the Women's All-Point title at SIRAs in Oak Ridge.

UT's only tri-meet of the year resulted in a season-first lightweight sweep against Iowa and Creighton. In the year's final race, the Lexus Cup/Central Region Championships in Oak Ridge, UT repeated as titlists in the Varsity Lightweight 8+, but struggled in the other two events and finished the regatta in sixth.

As a team, the Lady Vols compiled a 103-21-1 record and finished second in five regattas.

Individually, Jen Conowall was

Russell Johnson continued UT's long-standing success in the pole vault after placing third at the NCAA meet.

chosen to the Academic All-District team.

MEN'S TRACK & FIELD

The Vol track team posted a fourth place conference finish in the outdoor meet and claimed fifth place at the leagues indoor championship.

Russell Johnson was the leagues indoor pole vault champion with a vault of 17 feet, 2 1/4 inches. He placed second at the outdoor championships with a vault of 17 feet, 9 3/4 inches.

Two Vols did claim individual titles at the SEC Outdoor Championships. Pat Buckheit won the decathlon, and he was followed by teammate Grant Cleghorn. Wes Boudreau won the hammer throw with a toss of 216 feet, 10 inches. Tim Bell placed second in the high jump with a leap of 7 feet, 3 3/4 inches.

The cross country squad finished fifth at the SEC Championships. Three Vols finished in the top 25 at the league championship led by Doug Ellington's 10th place showing.

HENLEY, WHITE KEY LADY VOL SUCCESS

Led by outstanding performances from sophomore Kristen Ritter, the UT cross country team took the first step back towards national prominence as the squad raced to its highest NCAA District finish since 1992, its highest SEC finish since 1993 and won its first invitational since 1992.

Tennessee concluded its season at the NCAA District 9 Championships. The Lady Vols finished ninth out of 26 teams. Also noteworthy was Ritter, who once again was the team's leading runner. Her time of 18:15 placed her 21st out of 177 runners, which earned her All-District honors, the first for Tennessee since 1994.

Led by stellar performances by senior Lesley Henley and junior Kelli White, the Lady Vol track and field team continued to make strides, by claiming both its best indoor and outdoor NCAA finish in three years.

In the first meet of the season, first-year head coach Myrtle Ferguson took her troops to her old stomping grounds to compete in the LSU Indoor Invitational. Tennessee came away with a pair of school records and two NCAA provisional qualifying marks, which proved to be a foreshadowing of things to come, both individually and from a team standpoint.

After progressing throughout the indoor season, Tennessee tested its mettle at the SEC Indoor Championships in Baton Rouge. The Lady Vols tallied 51 1/2 points to place sixth and forge their best finish since 1995. UT was led by Henley, as she cleared a school-record height of 11-5 3/4 to win the first-ever SEC women's pole vault championship

White was the lone UT representative at the NCAA Indoor Championships. While there, the junior picked up All-America honors in the 55m and 200m dashes. Tennessee finished with a 31st-place tally, the team's best in three seasons.

At the Penn Relays, Tennessee produced first-place finishes from Henley, who set UT, Penn Relays and Franklin Field marks with a vault of 11-11.75, and Michelle Elfervig, while White placed second in the 100 meters.

The Southeastern Conference meet saw Tennessee place seventh for the second year in a row, but the Lady Vols posted 65 points, which was their highest in three years. White had a hand in 27 of those points, clocking a school-record 22.58 in a second-place finish in the 200m, taking third in the 100m dash and helping the 4x100m and 4x400m relay teams to second and fourth-place finishes, respectively. Henley notched UT's only other top-three finish, garnering third in the vault.

The final stop on the collegiate circuit was the NCAA meet in Buffalo. Five Lady Vols earned tickets to that meet, and two of those competitors would bring home a combined three All-America accolades, as Tennessee would notch a 15th-place team finish with 15 points.

White carried the load by taking fifth in the 100m dash and fourth in the 200m dash to earn All-America accolades in both events for the second year in a row. Henley, meanwhile, turned in a school-record vault of 12-5.5 to place third and earn the first national honor of her career. Her mark, which tied her with the first and second-place competitors, also established NCAA Outdoor Championship and University at Buffalo Stadium records.

Named to the All-SEC Academic Honor Roll were Henley, Dorothy Denko, Elfervig, Maureen Ferris, Zakiah Modeste, Erica Witter, Marquita Knight, Kristen Ritter and Mindy Watkins.

—Volunteers Magazine Staff

Annissa Campbell leads a capable group of sprinters under coach Myrtle Ferguson.

Tennessee Tradition...

Ben Byrd on the Vols... Voices of the Vols!

John Ward's and Bill Anderson's announcement of their impending retirement as "the Voice of the Vols" stirs memories of past broadcasters who brought the football Vols into our living rooms on long ago Saturday afternoons.

There was no Vol Network in the 1930s and 40s when Tennessee football was establishing its enviable tradition under Coach Bob Neyland. Play-by-play broadcasts of Vol games were carried at various times on both of Knoxville's pioneer stations, WROL and WNOX, and no one announcer was as closely associated with the Vol grid program as Ward came to be in recent times. But I can think of a few names that will ring a bell with longtime Tennessee fans.

Allen Stout of WROL comes instantly to mind. It would probably be accurate to refer to Allen as Knoxville's first full-time sportscaster. He did Vol games going back into the '30s, and he was very good at it. He was still on the scene when I first started out as a sportswriter on the old Knoxville Journal in 1947. He was a very pleasant and likeable man. He moved on to WLW in Cincinnati sometime in the '50s.

Lowell Blanchard was another early Knoxville radio personality who took an occasional swing at play-by-play accounts of Vol games. Lowell was far and away the town's most popular radio performer ever.

He gained his greatest fame as the founder and emcee of the WNOX Mid-day Merry-Go-Round but he also dabbled in sports and built a great following with his improvised accounts of Knoxville Smoky baseball games on the road, with a Western Union ticker as his only source of information. Lowell was not a student of football by any means, but he was such a great communicator that it didn't matter all that much.

There were other announcers who did UT play-by-play in the pre-Vol Network days. Tys Terway, Blanchard's sidekick at WNOX, was one of them. And I recall that Len Broughton, later a Chancery Court judge, had a fling at it in the late '30s or early '40s. But it was Lindsey Nelson, the right man in the right place at the right time, who set the wheels in motion to create the vast enterprise that the Tennessee football network has become.

Lindsey had worked as a broadcast spotter and assistant sports publicity director in his student days at UT in the late '30s and early '40s. Back from World War II, he worked as a sportscaster at WKGN and WROL, calling both UT football and basketball games and establishing a reputation as a sports voice on the rise.

One day he went to General Neyland, then both coach and AD, with the idea of a UT grid radio network feeding stations across the state. Lindsey was to do the play-by-play and put the system together.

"There's only one hitch," Nelson told Neyland. "I know, you don't have any money," said Neyland. "We'll see if we can't help you with that."

And so the Vol Network was born at a most opportune time, during the Vols' drive for the national championship in 1951. Lindsey himself only stayed with his own creation for one season, leaving to take a job with the Liberty Broadcasting System in Dallas. Allen Stout filled in pro tem for a few months, and then George Mooney, a Memphis-based sportscaster, was hired to be the second "Voice of the Vols" in 1952.

Mooney, with former Vol Bob Foxx as his analyst, did the Vol broadcast for 16 seasons, during which time the Network grew at a vigorous pace under the front office direction of Knoxville advertising executive Edwin Huster Sr. His son, Edwin Jr., is still involved with the Network production in its association with Host Associates broadcast group.

Ward succeeded Mooney as "Voice of the Vols" in 1968, bringing in former UT wingback Bill Anderson as his buddy in the booth. They made a great team. each feeding off the other, Ward's rapid-fire style balanced off Anderson's laid-back commentary. The Network grew in enormous leaps in the 1980s and '90s, and so did the fame of its announcers.

When it was revealed that both John and Bill were going to hang up the old mike after the 1998-99 school year there was widespread "Say it ain't so," reaction from Vol fans. Two old friends won't be visiting with us in our homes on Saturdays in the fall anymore, and they'll be sadly missed.

Former Vol

Kevin Janiga (1979-82)

Kevin Janiga came to Tennessee in 1979 and, during his time as a Vol, earned All-America honors in 1980 and was All-SEC in 1980-82.

The Vols' 1980 team claimed the SEC Championship, with Janiga tying for seventh overall in the SEC Tournament. From 1980-82, the Vol golf team went to the NCAA Championships, where they placed 6th, 7th and 22nd.

Janiga was named the Vols' rookie of the year in 1979 and received the Marvin Mahan Ellison Award in 1980 and 1981 as the team's most valuable player.

Janiga resides in Prospect, Kentucky.

Kevin Janiga (R) and Jim Gallagher (L) stand with the 1980 SEC Championship Trophy.

Summer Sports Camps...

CHECK DATES FOR THE CAMP(S) OF YOUR CHOICE!

BASEBALL: Phone Number 423-974-2057

DATES	COST	DEPOSIT	AGES	SPECIAL NOTE
July 12-17(0)	295.00	100.00	10-Sr	Reg. 3-5
July 12-17(D)	235.00	50.00	10-Sr.	July 12
July 19-24(0)	295.00	100.00	10-Sr.	July 19
July 19-24(D)	235.00	50.00	10-Sr.	July 19

TENNESSEE SELECT BASEBALL SCHOOL: 423-974-2057

July 26-31(0)	$395.00	$100.00	9th-Sr. to be	Reg. July
July 27-31 (D)	$335.00	$50.00	9th-Sr. to be	July 26

BASKETBALL: 423-974-1207

June 28-July 2(0)	$300.00	$100.00	9-18 yrs	Reg. 2pm
June 28-July 2(D)	$220.00	$100.00	9-18 yrs	Reg. 2pm

TENNIS: 423-974-6883

July 6-10(0)	$395.00	$100.00	
July 6-10(D)	$195.00	$50.00	
July 6-10(1/2)	$100.00		
July 13-17(O)	$395.00	$100.00	(Reg. 4-5 p.m.
July 13-17(D)	$195.00	$50.00	on July 13)
July 13-17(1/2)	$100.00		

(All camps are for both boys and girls)

CHEERLEADING & DANCE: 800-238-0286

Camp III
- July 16-18 UCA 2 Day High School Camp
- July 16-19 UCA All-Star Cheer Camp
- July 16-19 UDA High School Dance Camp II

Camp IV
- July 20-23 UCA High School Cheer Camp II

Camp V
- July 24-26 UCA College Prep
- July 24-26 UDA Dance Officer

Note: Camp V is for individual participants who desire to cheer or dance at the Collegiate Level.

CROSS COUNTRY & TRACK: 423-974-1433

DATES	COST	DEPOSIT	AGES	SPECIAL NOTE
June 28-July 2(O)	$295.00	$50.00	12-Sr.	(Reg. 12-2 p.m.
June 28-July 2(D)	$185.00	$50.00	12-Sr.	June 28)

(Camp date for both boys and girls)

GOLF: 423-974-4275

July 7-9	$100	$50/NR	G 8-18	(D)

BEGINNER ROWING: 423-974-6121

July 9-12	$295(O)	$100/NR	G 13-18	(D/O)

SOCCER: 423-974-9595 or 423-974-9359

July 5-9	$275(D)	$75/NR	G 12-18	(D/O)

SOFTBALL: 423-974-8470

July 12-16	$175(D)	$50/NR	G 8-18	(O/D)
July 21-23	$75(D)	$50/NR	G 8-18	Hitting Camp

TENNIS: 423-974-1124 or 423-974-0199

June 29-July 3	$100	$50/NR	B&G 8-18	(M/A)

VOLLEYBALL: 423-974-3614

July 17-19	$135	$100	11-18 All Skills	(D)
July 20-23	$250(O)	$100	11-18 Position	(O/D)
July 20-23	$180(D)	$100	11-18	(O/D)

LADY VOL BASKETBALL CAMPS ARE FULL AT THIS TIME

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(B) Boys - (G) Girls
NR - Non-refundable

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THIS WEEK IN BIG ORANGE COUNTRY

DIAMOND VOLS JOIN PROS!

The Vols ended this past season on a down note by not qualifying for the SEC Tournament. They did compile a 36-20 record and many of the players caught the eye of Major League scouts.

When draft day came around, it was good news for many Vols. But several Vols with eligibility remaining and some signees also were drafted.

The Vols eventually lost the first six hitters in the batting order. So the talent laden team this year will have to reload for next.

But no matter what, Major League scouts thought highly of this year's squad and showed it by drafting five off of the 1998 team, while two others signed as free agents.

Here is how it stacks up.

Luke Hudson, 4th Round, signed by the Colorado Rockies, assigned to Portland (Rockies), Oregon of the Northwest League.

Jeff Pickler, 11th Round, signed by the Milwaukee Brewers; assigned to Ogden (Raptors), Utah of the Pioneer League.

Justin Ross, 16th Round, signed by the Anaheim Angels; assigned to Boise (Hawks), Idaho of the Northwest League

Travis Copley, 23rd Round, signed by the Cincinnati Reds; assigned to Billings (Mustangs), Montana of the Pioneer League.

Eduardo Figueroa, 29th Round, signed by the Milwaukee Brewers; assigned to Helena (Brewers), Montana of the Pioneer League.

Two vols signed as free agents.

Sonny Cortez, signed a free agent contract with the Pittsburgh Pirates and was assigned to Augusta (Greenjackets), Georgia of the South Atlantic League.

Jason Evans, signed a free agent contract with the Tennessee Tomahawks, in Winchester, of the independent Heartland League.

These Vols hope to join the likes of Todd Helton (Colorado Rockies), Joe Randa (Detroit Tigers), Mike DeFelice (Tampa Bay Lightening) and Greg McMichael (Los Angeles Dodgers) as Vols who make it to "The Show."

—Donnell Field

Jamal Lewis leads the Vols into 1998.

Jeff Pickler a consensus All-America and GTE Academic All-America, was drafted by the Milwaukee Brewers.

2000 FOOTBALL SCHEDULE ANNOUNCED. ALSO GAME TIMES FOR 1998

Here is the 2000 football schedule as announced by Athletic Director Doug Dickey.

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE
9/2	Southern Miss.	Knoxville
9/16	Florida	Gainesville
9/23	SE Louisiana (HC)	Knoxville
9/30	LSU	Baton Rouge
10/7	Georgia	Athens
10/21	Alabama	Knoxville
10/28	South Carolina	Columbia
11/4	Memphis	Memphis
11/11	Arkansas	Knoxville
11/18	Kentucky	Knoxville
11/25	Vanderbilt	Nashville
12/2	SEC Championship Game at Atlanta	

Game times for six of Tennessee's football games have been set for the upcoming season, beginning with a noon lidlifter against Syracuse televised by ESPN on Sept. 5. CBS will broadcast the Florida game on Sept. 19 at 8 p.m., the Georgia game on Oct. 10 at 3:30 p.m., and the Alabama game on Oct. 24 at 3:30 p.m. Two games are slated for pay-per-view. These are the Houston game on September 26 at 7 p.m. and the Homecoming contest against Alabama-Birmingham on Nov. 7 at 4 p.m.

The 1999 schedule is as follows, highlighted by a return visit from Notre Dame and Auburn's first appearance at Neyland Stadium since 1991.

DATE	OPPONENT	PLACE
Sept. 4	Wyoming	Knoxville
Sept. 18	Florida	Gainesville
Sept. 25	Memphis	Knoxville
Oct. 2	Auburn	Knoxville
Oct. 9	Georgia	Knoxville
Oct. 23	Alabama	Birmingham
Oct. 30	South Carolina	Knoxville
Nov. 6	Notre Dame	Knoxville
Nov. 13	Arkansas	Fayetteville
Nov. 20	Kentucky	Lexington
Nov. 27	Vanderbilt	Knoxville

Three Rings in Three Years...

MOST SUCCESSFUL LADY VOL EVER

What do you do for an encore? That will probably be the most frequently-asked question of Lady Vol basketball superstar Chamique Holdsclaw as she strives to take her act to yet another level in the 1998-99 season. Thus far, the 6-2 senior from Astoria, N.Y., has played to rave reviews in her three-year career at the University of Tennessee.

Holdsclaw has lived up to the hype that accompanied her arrival in Knoxville by leading the Lady Vols to three consecutive NCAA Championships in her first three seasons. She averaged close to 23 points and eight rebounds per game, while shooting nearly 56 percent from the field.

"I would not trade Chamique for another player in the college game," said Tennessee head coach Pat Summitt. "There's no one out there. There have been a lot of great forwards to play the game, but I would mention her name in the same breath."

Not only has Holdsclaw led the Lady Vols in scoring in her first two seasons, but she has also been the team's top rebounder and one of its most accurate shooters. Her incredible athletic ability and sweet touch from the baseline have already catapulted her into the Lady Vol record books, as her 803 points last season were the second-highest single-season total in UT history.

Holdsclaw's list of post-season accolades reads like an entire full-length novel, as she has appeared on the Kodak All-American Team in three consecutive seasons. She was the first Lady Vol freshman to receive that honor in 1996, and she duplicated the feat in 1997 and this past season as well. In addition, "Mique," was named first-team All America by the Associated Press, U.S. Basketball Writers, *The Sporting News* and Women's Basketball News Service in 1998.

Some of Holdsclaw's performances during the 1996-97 campaign were indescribable, including her career-high 34-point explosion in an overtime loss to Georgia during the regular season. She scored 15 of those points during the last two minutes of regulation to pull the Lady Vols even.

A unanimous All-SEC selection, Holdsclaw also appeared on the conference's all-tournament team. She became the Lady Vol player quickest ever to reach 1,000 points when she reached the plateau in the first half of a win over Alabama in 1997.

This past season she joined the 2,000 point club and trails only Bridgette Gordon for points in a career, a record which she has a chance of breaking during the 1998-99 season.

Holdsclaw joined the USA National Team for the first time in the summer of 1997, and she made an immediate impact. Despite being the squad's youngest player, she led the U.S. in scoring (19.0 ppg) and rebounding (8.1 ppg) while shooting a whopping 68 percent from the floor. Her efforts helped Team USA snag a silver medal at the Women's World Qualifying Tournament in Sao Paulo, Brazil.

She joined up with Team USA as they went for a World Championship earlier this month, which would be their first since 1990, when Team USA was shocked by Brazil in 1994.

Despite being the only collegiate player on the squad, Holdsclaw held her own, and, on several occasions, led Team USA to victory, as was the case when she dropped in 20 points in Team USA's victory over Slovakia 89-62 in the quarterfinals. In the championship game against Russia, Holdsclaw scored four points as Team USA captured the world title with a 71-65 victory over the Russians, a team they had beaten by 36 points earlier in the tournament.

And to what does the woman who wears number 23 in honor of her favorite Psalm from the Bible (not in honor of Michael Jordan) attribute her success? It's simple. "I believe you never let anyone know your greatest fear," Holdsclaw said, "because then they know your weaknesses."

Among Holdsclaw's other notables

**Received the 1997 USA Basketball Female Athlete of the Year - being the youngest recipient since Cheryl Miller received the award in 1984.*

** *Became the first Lady Vol ever to win the Honda-Broderick Award as the recipient of the Women's Athlete of the Year.*

**Is the only Lady Vol player to ever record 2000 points and 1000 rebounds in a career, and has reached the 2000 point club faster than any Lady Vol in team history.*

**Is the only Lady Vol to ever earn the Naismith Player of the Year Award.*

Should Holdsclaw's strong nature remain in effect for the next season, chances are both she and the Lady Vols will continue to take center stage. And when the curtain rises for the final time, the Holdsclaw-led Lady Vol basketball program may just find itself with another championship trophy.

—Brad Laux

Coach Pat Summitt (left) and Chamique Holdsclaw (right) pose for photos after receiving AP's Coach and Player of the Year Awards prior to the NCAA Finals in April.

VASF News and Notes

Hamilton Named Fund Raiser of the Year by Development Directors Association

University of Tennessee Associate Athletic Director for Development and Marketing Mike Hamilton has been named Fund Raiser of the Year by the National Association of Athletic Development Directors for 1997-98. The awards were presented at NAADD's fifth annual workshop held June 11-12 in Marco Island, Fla.

Hamilton was honored for the 16 percent growth in the Volunteer Athletic Scholarship Fund, from $7.6 million in 1996-97 to $8.85 million this year. Additionally, the creation of the Nathan Dougherty Society led to growth in the area of major endowment commitments this past year. There are 30 members in the Society, with 19 having joined in 1997-98. These donors give cash pledges of $125,000 each, to be made over 10 years.

"While the award is being made in my name, the credit belongs to the VASF staff and, more importantly, the donors to the University of Tennessee athletic program, without whom, none of this would have been possible. I am proud to accept it on their behalf," Hamilton said.

Since his arrival in 1992, the number of annual donors has nearly doubled to 9700 and the VASF has grown from annual gifts of $4.47 million in 1992-93 to the current $8.85 million.

Donors Need to Ensure Their Addresses Are Correct for Future Deliveries

Once again this fall, 1998 full football season football tickets will be shipped after Aug. 3, using a courier service and will require a street address and signature for delivery.

1998 football parking passes will be sent after Aug. 10. New this year, passes will be sent using first class registered mail and will also require a street address and signature for delivery. ***Lost parking passes cannot be replaced.***

The VASF office reminds all donors that they have two accounts, one for ticketing and one for VASF. Each account is located on a separate database located in two different buildings. Donors' addresses must be changed on both systems by July 15, to ensure prompt delivery of all items.

For your protection, please make address changes in writing. Simply mail or fax a short note listing both your old and new addresses. Also, include phone numbers as well.

If you are unable to sign for your tickets or parking passes during the daytime in August and would like your tickets and parking pass instead to be held for will call pick up, please notify the ticket office at (423) 656-1200 or the development office at (423) 974-1218. If you are unable to pick up your tickets or parking pass and would like to send someone else to pick them up for you, please provide that person with a photocopy of your photo identification and written verification that this person has your permission to pick up your tickets and passes.

If you have any questions, please call the VASF office at (423) 974-1218.

Summertime All-Sports Picnics Planned

This summer, satisfy your craving for Volunteer sports by attending the annual UT National Alumni Association All-Sports Picnics in your area. Meet coaches, staff, and athletes from the UT men's and women's programs while enjoying some of the best catering cookout available. There are two dates.

Nashville's National Guard Armory will be host to a picnic July 23, beginning at 6 p.m. CDT. The event is sponsored by the Davidson County UTNAA chapter. Contact Leigh Paradise at (615) 244-2130 for ticket information. Or you can call the Davidson County Alumni Association hotline at (615) 262-3565.

The East Tennessee area gets its own barbecue picnic (with free food) Aug. 4, beginning at 6:30 p.m. EDT. The event will be held at Johnson City's Freedom Hall and will feature UT athletes, coaches, and staff. It is co-sponsored by the UTNAA Washington, Carter and Sullivan Counties' chapters. Contact Jim Wheeler at (423) 434-4760 or (423) 434-0468 for more information.

Welcome Back Barbecue Set

Once again, fans and friends will have the chance to start the academic year off right with the new and returning athletes and coaches at UTNAA's Ninth Annual Welcome Back Barbecue held at Thompson-Boling Arena on Aug. 22, beginning at 7 p.m. EDT. Contact Susan Elder at (423) 546-7864 for more information.

The Last Word...

ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE!

There's good news where the University of Tennessee academic support program is concerned.

The Vol football team was one of 24 schools receiving honorable mention by the American Football Coaches Association when it announced its annual Academic Achievement Award earlier this month.

The Award goes to NCAA Division 1-A member schools which post graduation rates of 70 percent or better.

Northwestern took home the 1998 Award as it recorded a 100 percent graduation rate for members of its football squad when all members of the class of 1997 earned a degree. The win snapped Duke's five-year run of either winning or sharing the Awards.

The survey, taken from 79 participating schools, involved the freshman class of 1992-93 who received athletically-related financial aid as a member of the schools' football squad. Of those student-athletes nationally who completed four years of eligibility, 74 percent have graduated and another seven percent are currently enrolled and working toward a degree. The overall graduation rate nationally among the 79 institutions participating was 59 percent.

Tennessee joined Bowling Green, Duke, Florida, Idaho, Illinois, Iowa, Louisiana Tech, Marshall, Mississippi State, Nebraska, Notre Dame, Oregon, Penn State, Rice, SMU, Syracuse, Tulane, Vanderbilt, Virginia, Wake Forest, Washington and Wisconsin in attaining honorable mention status.

This is the fourth time in last 10 years for the Vols, with only two SEC schools being named more, Mississippi State (6) and Vanderbilt (10). It's also the Vols' first ranking in the last four years.

Vol Athletes(L-R) Kevin Foley, Scott Pfeiffer, Chester Ford, Peyton Manning, Tom Hutton, Brent Gibson, Joey Kent, and John Sartelle are shown after Spring 1997 Graduation ceremonies.

"We're proud that our academic program has been honored by the AFCA," Athletic Director Doug Dickey said. "When you consider the success of our football team on the field, ranking in the top 10 the last three years, this recognition is a wonderful compliment to the university's dedication to achievement on the field and in the classroom."

"The results of these graduation numbers are a reflection of a motivated student-athlete, dedicated support staff and a faculty who understand the challenges student-athletes face today," Assistant Athletic Director Student Life Carmen Tegano said.

"We are also very fortunate to have the budgetary support in order to support our student-athletes in their endeavors and to assist in accomplishing these goals. This is a special honor due to the difficulties associated with balancing academics and athletics. We are hopeful that these numbers will remain competitive over the next few years."

Among the graduates from this recruiting class back in 1992-93 were such Vols as Chester Ford, Scott Galyon, Brent Gibson, Richard Howard, DeRon Jenkins, Nick Jester, Joey Kent, Eric Lane, Ralph Nelson, Jason Parker (expected to graduate in the summer of 1998), Scott Pfeiffer, John Sartelle, Mark Upton, Jason Price, Heath Smargiasso, James Braswell, and Mark Ingram.

In a related development, the Office of Student Life has begun a program to encourage athletes to return to school. It's entitled "RAC," for Renewing Academic Commitment. This program is administered by Tyler Johnson.

As you can see, there's a lot going on both on and off the field for Vol footballers, with the results being readily apparent in both places.

— Tom Mattingly

CLASSIC ART FROM RUSSIA

The Matryoshka doll has depicted Russian Cultural Icons for hundreds of years. Now it is available depicting one of our own – **The Tennessee Volunteers.**

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The set shown above is a limited edition totaling 1,000 dolls. The base of the largest doll will be painted with the words "1997 SEC Champions."

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